

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ARAE-00 SAB-01 OMB-01 AID-05 SY-05

DHA-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /071 W

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FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4850

INFO AMEMBASSY PANAMA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE PRIORITY

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SAN JOSE FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY SHLAUDEMAN

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PA, VE, US

SUBJECT: PANAMANIAN AMBASSADOR TO VENEZUELA DENOUNCES

U.S. DESTABILIZATION PLOT AGAINST GOP

REF: STATE 231723, STATE 231762, 75 PANAMA A-193

1. SUMMARY: PANAMANIAN AMBASSADOR JURADO ACCUSED THE U.S. OF ATTEMPTING TO "DESTABILIZE" GOP DURING RECENT DISTURBANCES IN PANAMA IN CARACAS PRESS INTERVIEW SEPT. 22. JURADO ACCUSED THE CIA OF BEING INVOLVED, AND THAT USG IS SEEKING TO HAVE A "PUPPET GOVERNMENT" ESTABLISHED IN PANAMA. AS PROOF OF HIS ALLEGATIONS, HE CITED PANAMANIAN PRESS REPORTS WHICH LISTED VARIOUS US ARMED FORCES PERSONNEL AS BEING DIRECTLY INVOLVED, AND ENDED HIS DIATRIBE BY NOTING THAT CONSPIRATORS PLANNED THEIR ACTIVITIES IN TWO HOUSES IN THE ZONE. END SUMMARY.

2. IN EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW WITH RESPECTED CARACAS DAILY EL NACIONAL PUBLISHED SEPT. 22, PANAMANIAN AMBASSADOR RAMON H. JURADO SAID THAT GROUPS INTERESTED IN "DESTABILIZING THE PANAMANIAN GOVERNMENT" TOOK ADVANTAGE OF DISCONTENT OVER
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RECENT PRICE RAISES TO FOMENT TROUBLE. ACCORDING TO JURADO,

THESE GROUPS WERE NOT THE SAME ONES THAT TRIED TO CREATE A CHAOTIC SITUATION IN JANUARY THIS YEAR, GROUPS WHICH WERE IN ALLIANCE WITH THE REPUBLICAN PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE RONALD REAGAN.

3. THIS TIME, JURADO ASSERTED THAT THE CIA WAS DIRECTLY INVOLVED AND THAT THE GOP WOULD DEFEND THE COUNTRY AGAINST ATTEMPTS TO BRING DOWN THE ESTABLISHED ORDER. HE ADDED THAT THESE FOREIGN GROUPS ARE IN LEAGUE WITH PANAMANIAN OLIGARCHIC ELEMENTS. GIVE THE SHORT TIME REMAINING TO REACH A SETTLEMENT OF CANAL ISSUE, JURADO SAID THAT THE UNITED STATES IS SEEKING A CHANGE OF GOVERNMENT IN PANAMA. "THE U.S. IS SEEKING TO ESTABLISH A PUPPET GOVERNMENT WHICH WOULD LOOK WITH FAVOR ON THE COLONIAL ACTION OF THE U.S." ("BUSCAN COLOCAR UN GOBIERNO TITERE QUE VEA CON BUENOS OJOS LA ACTUACION COLONIALISTA DE ESTADOS UNIDOS.")

4. WHEN ASKED FOR PROOF OF HIS ALLEGATIONS, JURADO CITED PANAMANIAN NEWS STORIES TO EFFECT THAT THE FOLLOWING U.S. CITIZENS HAVE BEEN DETAINED REGARDING THE RIOTS: BERNARDO LOWEEL JAMESON, MEMBER OF U.S. AIR FORCE INTELLIGENCE; ROGELIO GARCIA, CHIEF OF SUPPLY OF A U.S. AIR BASE; AND HECTOR BOWNS, MEMBER OF A U.S. ARMY INTELLIGENCE UNIT OF THE 193RD INFANTRY BRIGADE. HE ALSO SAID THAT THE CONSPIRATORS MET IN TWO HOUSES IN THE CANAL ZONE TO PLAN THEIR ACTION.

5. COMMENT: EL NACIONAL CARRIED PHOTOS OF JURADO HOLDING NEWSPAPERS, AND ALSO RAN A PHOTO OF THE FRONT PAGE OF THE PANAMANIAN PAPER CRITICA WHICH CARRIED STORIES AND PICTURES OF THE ALLEGED U.S. PLOTTERS. ACCORDING TO THE EL NACIONAL ACCOUNT, PROOF OF U.S. INVOLVEMENT WAS BASED SOLELY ON PANAMANIAN NEWS STORIES. JURADO MADE NO MENTION OF WHETHER HE WAS SPEAKING ON INSTRUCTIONS OF GOP.
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